



Tennessee Department of Veterans Affairs  
and the Women Veterans of America Chapter 20 present the

# 1ST ANNUAL WOMEN VETERANS *Summit*



**WOMEN SERVED...  
WOMEN DESERVE!!!**



# WELCOME *from the* GOVERNOR

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Dear Friends,

It is my pleasure to welcome all of you to the First Annual Tennessee Department of Veterans Affairs Women's Veterans Summit. The state of Tennessee is proud of your military service and your continued contributions to your communities.

The Volunteer State is built on a tradition to serve, and although women are only a small portion of our country's veteran population, they are an important part of military history. I thank you for your volunteer spirit that inspired you to serve in the armed forces. Your numbers may be small, but your courage and commitment are significant.

We look forward to future Women Veterans Summits, and we believe they will become a useful resource for networking, collaboration and increased recognition for the women who have served our country honorably.

Thank you again for your service and participation in this inaugural event to celebrate your time in uniform and the legacy you leave for future Tennessee women.

Warmest regards,

Bill Haslam

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# Welcome

*from the Commissioner*



Women Veterans,

Welcome to the Tennessee Department of Veterans Affairs' 2012 Women's Veterans Summit! This inaugural event is only the beginning of a tradition to recognize, honor and remember Tennessee women who have served our state and country in the armed forces.

As a veteran with 35 years of military service with the Army National Guard, I am proud of the women veterans who have come before me and who will serve years after I am gone. As your TDVA Commissioner, it is exciting to see our plans for the First Women's Veterans Summit come to fruition. We want to recognize your honorable service to our country. Many of you have helped to pave the way for the next generation of women who will wear a uniform.

The TDVA joins you in celebrating the legacy of more than 39,500 Tennessee women veterans. Our mission is to serve veterans and their families with dignity and compassion. We are honored to serve as advocates for veterans seeking benefits, entitlements and recognition they earned in service to our country. We are committed to offering veterans efficient and effective customer service and insightful guidance.

To all of our women veterans here today, we want to say thank you for your participation in this event and your commitment to serve our country. Your military service is a tremendous source of patriotism in our Tennessee communities.

I hope each of you will benefit greatly from the guest speakers, vendors and the network of other women veterans with us today. I look forward to your thoughts, comments and recommendations for an even bigger and better Women's Veterans Summit in 2013.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Many-Bears Grinder". The signature is stylized with a large, flowing "M" and "B".

Many-Bears Grinder  
Colonel (Retired)

# *1st Annual Women Veterans Conference Agenda*

## *April 28, 2012*

### **7:00 am:**

Vendors can begin setting up

### **8:00 am – 9:00 am:**

Registration / Childcare / Vendors

### **9:00 am – 9:30 am:**

WELCOME: Many-Bears Grinder, Commissioner TDVA

POSTING OF THE COLORS: Vanderbilt Navy ROTC

NATIONAL ANTHEM: 1SG Jody Barnes, TN National Guard

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Becky Rigney, Commander WVA Chapter 20

INVOCATION: Ashley Bell, VA Hospital

WELCOME: Congressman Diane Black

### **9:30 am – 10:00 am:**

Betty Moseley Brown

Associate Director VA Center for Women Veterans

### **10:00 am – 10:30 am:**

Shelly Peterson

Assistant Veterans Service Center Manager at the Nashville Regional Office

### **10:30 am – 11:00 am:**

Brigadier General Wilma Vaught

USAF (Ret)

### **11:00 am – 11:30 am:**

Break / Vendors

### **11:30 am – 1:30 pm:**

LUNCH

SPECIAL ENTERTAINMENT: Lee Greenwood

Women Veteran of the Year Award Presentation

### **1:30 pm – 2:30 pm:**

Breakout Classes - North Carolina, South Carolina and Southern Ballroom

### **2:30 pm – 3:30 pm:**

Breakout Classes- North Carolina, South Carolina and Southern Ballroom

### **3:30 pm – 4:00 pm:**

Break / Vendors

### **4:00 pm – 5:00 pm:**

Mary Ross

National Commander WVA - Southern Ballroom

DOOR PRIZES

CLOSING REMARKS: Commissioner Many-Bears Grinder

# Classes

## Breakout Classes

(choose 1 of 3 classes during 2 different sessions)

### **eBenefits / My HealtheVet** (North Carolina)

**presented by Anthoneal Newman, Monica McLendon and Gabrielle Hulan**

**eBenefits:** The eBenefits portal ([www.ebenefits.va.gov](http://www.ebenefits.va.gov)) is a joint Department of Defense (DoD) and VA initiative that provides personalized self-service capabilities and resources to service members, Veterans, their families, and caregivers. Development of eBenefits was initiated in March of 2007 at the recommendation of the President's Commission on Care for America's Returning Wounded Warriors (Dole/Shalala). With quarterly releases, eBenefits continues to evolve as a "one-stop shop" for service members and Veterans.

**My HealtheVet:** This is the United States of Veterans Affairs new innovative way to reach your own Personal Health Record. It was designed for Veterans, active duty Service members, their dependents and caregivers. My HealtheVet helps you partner with your health care team. It provides you opportunities and tools to make informed decisions. This class will show you how easy it is to manage your medical record from home.

### **Understanding and Recovering from Military Sexual Trauma** (Southern Ballroom)

**presented by Latrice Thomas LMSW**

**Military Sexual Trauma:** Some veterans (women and men) suffered personal assault and/or sexual trauma while serving on active military duty. They might still struggle with fear, anxiety, embarrassment, or profound anger as a result of these experiences. If you suffer from the effects of sexual trauma in the service, VA may be able to help you. The following is a summary of sexual trauma and the compensation for those eligible: Sexual Trauma Defined, Compensation for Disabilities, (PTSD) Secondary to Sexual Trauma, and How the Application Process Works.

### **Get a Job NOW:**

**Creative Strategies to Secure Employment Workshop** (South Carolina)

**presented by Empowerment Coach Renee Bobb**

**Get a Job NOW: Creative Strategies to Secure Employment Workshop:** This class is designed to empower job seekers by equipping them with the tools they need to secure employment. Participants will learn cutting-edge techniques that will help them find a job in a challenging job market. They will receive support and motivation to help them pursue a more fulfilling job without sacrificing their current financial security. During the training, participants will identify their current skill set and learn how to apply them in the modern job market.

**Upon the completion of the workshop participants will have:**

1. A plan of action to secure employment
2. Clear short-term and long-term goals for employment
3. An understanding of the many ways to secure employment
4. The understanding of how to solve their job search difficulties
5. Mastered the three C's of employment success
6. A plan to stay focused until employment is secured



# Speaker

## Congressman Diane Black

**Tennessee's 6th Congressional District,  
112th Congress**

As a small business owner, former educator and registered nurse for over 40 years, Congressman Diane Black brings a unique perspective to her work in Washington.

From starting two family-owned businesses, Black understands how to balance a budget, invest and hire new employees and grow a company without the help of government. From her work in the health care field, Black learned first-hand the importance of high-quality care and the obstacles faced by both patients and providers. She began her career as an emergency room nurse, but also served as a long-term care nurse and worked as part of an outpatient surgery team.

She ran for office for the first time in 1998, when she was elected to the Tennessee House of Representatives, where Black immediately set to work for her constituents. Her first year in office, Black was instrumental in defeating the Governor's proposal for a state income tax and sparking a grassroots movement that encouraged fellow Tennesseans to protest the proposed hike.

Elected to the state senate in 2004, Black built on her reputation as a champion for children and seniors, traditional family values, fiscal responsibility, and small business owners. Black's legislative accomplishments include reforming the state's adoption laws, defunding Planned Parenthood and enacting stricter penalties for sex offenders, including bringing Tennessee into line with the federal "Adam Walsh Act." In the health care field, Black was instrumental in passing a bill providing more options for long term health care for seniors and the disabled, as well as tort reform legislation, aimed at weeding out meritless medical malpractice lawsuits.

In 2006, Black was elected by her peers to serve as Chair of the Senate Republican Caucus—the first woman in Tennessee history to hold that title.

In 2010 Black was elected to represent Tennessee's 6th Congressional District, which encompasses areas north, east and south of Nashville. Black came to Washington on a platform of conservative values, with particular focus on fiscal restraint and curbing government debt, and enacting market-based health care reform.

Upon coming to Congress, Black was elected by her fellow freshmen Members of Congress to serve as the Freshman Class Representative to the Republican Policy Committee, a forum where Republicans can discuss and forward their legislative initiatives.

Black was also chosen as one of only two freshmen to serve on the powerful House Ways and Means Committee, where the health care reform law as well as our nation's tax, trade and welfare laws will be debated and reformed. Black will serve on the Oversight and Human Resources Subcommittees on Ways and Means. Additionally, Black will also serve as a member of the House Budget Committee, where she will help craft the Federal Budget proposal from House Republicans, who are committed to cut and control government spending.

Born in Baltimore, Maryland, Black and her husband of 30 years, Dr. David Black have three grown children and six grandchildren. They moved to Tennessee 25 years ago and currently live in Gallatin. They attend Community Church in Hendersonville.

# Speaker

## Betty Moseley Brown, Ed.D.

**Associate Director of VA Center for  
Women Veterans, Washington, D.C.**



Dr. Betty Moseley Brown assumed the position of Associate Director of the Center for Women Veterans on November 1, 2004. In this capacity, she advises and assists the Director of the Center for Women Veterans in planning, directing, managing, and coordinating programs and activities of the Center.

Dr. Moseley Brown's passion for Veterans began during her United States Marine Corps service from 1978 – 1992. Her Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) career began at the San Diego Regional Office, where she was a Veterans Benefits Counselor and served as the Women Veterans Coordinator. She briefly left VA to work for the Department of the Navy.

Dr. Moseley Brown returned to VA in 2001, working in the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), Compensation and Pension Service and later working for the Associate Deputy Under Secretary for Policy and Program Management. She was VBA's first outreach coordinator, coordinating outreach activities of five major programs and efficiently providing Veterans and dependents with information on benefits and services administered by VA.

As Associate Director, Dr. Moseley Brown serves as the facilitator for VA's National Summit on Women Veterans' Issues—a major training and outreach quadrennial event for women Veterans, women Veterans advocates, and other federal agencies that provide services to women Veterans, promoting transparent, interagency communication on issues impacting women in the military and women Veterans. She has also been instrumental in promoting national awareness of the contributions made by women who served in the military through multiple department-wide efforts, such as VA's "Her Story" campaign and the "Faces Behind the War" DVD.

Dr. Moseley Brown has a Doctor of Education degree from the University of Sarasota. She is an avid Toastmaster, achieving the highest level in public speaking of Distinguished Toastmaster in January 2011. Dr. Moseley Brown is a 2004 Leadership VA (LVA) alumnus and 2009 graduate of the Federal Executive Institute.





# Speaker

## Wilma L. Vaught

**President, WIMSA**  
**Brigadier General, USAF, Retired**

Brigadier General Wilma L. Vaught, USAF, Retired, is President of the Board of Directors of the Women In Military Service For America Memorial Foundation, Inc. Under her leadership, the non-profit foundation built and operates the \$22.5 million Women's Memorial, the nation's only major memorial to pay tribute to the over 2.5 million women who have served in the nation's defense beginning with the American Revolution.

A native of Illinois, General Vaught earned a Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana; a Master of Business Administration degree from the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa; and an Honorary Doctorate of Public Affairs from Columbia College, SC.

Her military career spans some 28 years, with a variety of assignments both in the US and overseas, including Vietnam and Spain. She is one of the nation's most highly decorated military women, and the only woman for some 22 years to achieve general officer rank in the comptroller field.

She is a member of a number of boards and associations and the recipient of many national level awards, including most recently the 1998 Women's International Center Living Legacy Patriot Award; the 1998 National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution Medal of Honor; the 1998 National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs Veteran Advocate of the Year Award; the 1998 National Association of Women In Education Women of Distinction Award; and the 1998 VFW James E. Van Zandt Citizenship Award. In the year 2000, she became the first recipient of the National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution Margaret Cochran Corbin Award; one of only two recipients of the Air Force Women Officers Associated Pioneer Award; and she was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame. General Vaught was a 2003 National Women's History Project National Women's History Month Honoree as well as a recipient of the 2003 The Chapel of Four Chaplains Legion of Honor Bronze Medallion Award. She was awarded the Intrepid Award by the National Organization for Women in 2006, the US Air Force Woman of Distinction Merit Award in 2007, the General Federation of Women's Clubs Women's History Month Honoree in 2008 and in 2010 was inducted into the US Army Women's Foundation Hall of Fame.



# Speaker

## Shelly L. Peterson

**Assistant Veterans Service Center Manager  
Nashville VA Regional Office**



Shelly Peterson has served as an Assistant Veterans Service Center Manager at the Nashville Regional Office since December 2010. She currently oversees the Post-Determination, Public Contact and IDES teams.

Prior to her appointment as AVSCM, Mrs. Peterson served as a Management Analyst in the Southern Area Office from February 2009 to July 2010. As an Analyst, she communicated with Directors of all Southern Area Offices, as well as leaders throughout the organization on behalf of the Southern Area Director. Mrs. Peterson was the primary Analyst for various offices to include Columbia, Nashville and St. Petersburg. She was also involved in various projects to include the All Employee Survey, Month of Death, Disability Evaluation System and the development of the new Contact Operations Manager position for the National Call Centers.

Shelly began her VBA career in June 2002 as a Veteran Service Representative with the Winston-Salem Regional Office. In August 2005, she was promoted to a Program Analyst position in the Veterans Service Center Manager Front Office and enjoyed the daily challenges of a "big picture" environment. Shelly was later promoted to Assistant Coach in March 2007 as a supervisor for one of the Rating Boards. Mrs. Peterson has also served on several teams to include Pre-Determination, Post-Determination, Public Contact (Telephones) and Rating Board. Shelly is a LEAD graduate of the class of 2009 and is a LEAD mentor for the LEAD 2012 class. She has participated as an instructor for several Workload Management Seminars over the last two years.

Shelly was born and raised in Kingsport, Tennessee and attended Elon University where she received a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration. She also attended the University of North Carolina at Greensboro receiving an MBA in December 2006.

Shelly and her husband, Matt, reside in Mt. Juliet, TN and are parents to a 18-month old son, Keegan. Shelly is an avid Carolina Panthers fan and enjoys working out and singing.



# Speaker

**Mary D. Ross**

**National Commander  
Women Veterans of America**

Mary Ross served in the U.S. Army from 1974 to 1995. She was deployed with 2nd Brigade Task Force, 101st Airborne Division during Desert Shield and Storm. She retired in July 1995 at the rank of Sergeant First Class. Mary is currently the Deputy Executive Director for Operation Stand Down Nashville, Inc. (OSDN), a non-profit organization that assists veterans in need with an emphasis on the homeless. OSDN is the only VA approved Veteran Service Center in Tennessee. Mary is active in the Women Veterans Network, Tennessee Valley Health Care System, Women Veterans of America, VFW, American Legion and a member of the Board of Directors Tennessee State Veterans Homes Board. She was recently appointed to the Governor's Council on Service Members, Veterans and Their Families.



# Instructor

**Latrice M. Thomas, LSMW**

**Social Worker  
Memphis VA Hospital**

Latrice Thomas is a Licensed Master's Social Worker in the State of Tennessee currently employed as a social worker in the Post Traumatic Stress Disorder Clinic at the VAMC in Memphis, TN. In this capacity, she assesses veteran for PTSD and other mental health disorders as well as provide individual and group therapy as part of the PTSD recovery process. Additionally, Ms. Thomas is the Military Sexual Trauma Coordinator at the Memphis VAMC. In this capacity, she coordinate services for veteran's with a history of military sexual trauma. For several years, she served as the director of the Memphis YWCA Abused Women's Shelter. In this capacity, she assisted in providing crisis intervention counseling to victims of domestic abuse and education to the community at-large regarding domestic violence in the Memphis area. Ms. Thomas holds a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work from Mississippi State University and a Master's Degree in Social Work from Washington University in St. Louis—George Warren Brown School of Social Work. She is married to Bradley Thomas and is the proud mother of two daughters.

# *Instructor*

**Renee Bobb**

**Empowerment Coach, Author, Radio & TV Show Host,  
Speaker & Entrepreneur**



Renee Bobb is an authority in the field of self-publishing and small business development. Her company R.B.I. Enterprise, [www.ReneeBobb.com](http://www.ReneeBobb.com), is a Training & Development Firm, designed to provide individuals with empowerment training seminars, workshop and one-on-one coaching sessions.

Renee is the winner of the 2005 Small Business Administration, Virginia Women in Business Champion of the Year Award.

Renee is the founder and coordinator of the Nashville Women's Empowerment Workshop Series. The Nashville Women's Empowerment Workshop Series was created to supply women with the necessary tools to become a competitive and successful entrepreneurs. Empowering everyday women who are having a challenging time securing employment and meeting the financial needs of their households, has been the driving force.

As a Self-Publishing Consultant, Renee works with aspiring authors who want to learn how to write, market and self-publish their own books. Renee has nine non-fiction books published including; *Start Smart: The Women Entrepreneur Guide* and her top-seller, *The Self-Publishing Process: The Beginners Guide to Book Publishing Success*.

One of the highlights of Renee's career is having the opportunity to host and produce her own TV Talk Show called "The Author's Review," which airs on Public Broadcast Station. Renee's TV Show has won the 2006-2007 Broadcast of Excellence Award for Charlottesville Comcast Cable TV Station.

In 2007 Renee launched "The Renee Bobb Radio Show" which airs every Tuesday on [www.BlogTalkRadio.com/TheReneeBobbShow](http://www.BlogTalkRadio.com/TheReneeBobbShow). She has recently expanded her Radio Show by launching a new show called "Empowerment Talk for Today's Women" which airs every Tuesday afternoon on 760 AM The Gospel in Nashville, TN.

Renee hold a BS Degree in Interdisciplinary Studies from Norfolk State University, Norfolk, VA. She is currently working on her Masters Degree in Urban Education Guidance and Counseling.

Renee prides herself on having served in the United States Navy for over 5 years as a Telecommunications Operator and held a Top Secret Clearance during her enlistment.

Once a month, Renee commits herself to teaching Financial Empowerment and Career Development workshops to Veterans and homeless families. She also serves on the Board of Directors at Safe Haven Family Shelter. Renee has a strong passion and desire to empower the homeless through practical processes, education and life skills training that can change their lives forever.

Renee currently lives in Nashville, TN with her two teenage children.



# Instructors

## **Anthoneal Newman**

**VR&E Counselor  
Nashville VA Regional Office**

Mrs. Anthoneal Newman is an Operation Enduring Freedom Veteran who served in the United States Army Reserves for eight years and was deployed in 2004 - 2005. While in the military, she worked as an Administrative Assistant, Human Resource Specialist, and Postal Clerk. She obtained a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice and a Master's Degree in Rehabilitation Counseling from Troy University.

Mrs. Newman began her career with the Department of Veteran Affairs as a Veteran Service Representative at the Montgomery Regional Office in April of 2009. In April of 2010, she transitioned to the Nashville Regional Office to begin work as a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor and currently works daily with Veterans who have service-connected disabilities to assist them in obtaining suitable employment.

Mrs. Newman is an Atlanta native who is married with one daughter. Her hobbies include watching documentaries, learning random facts, and traveling to tropical destinations.



## **Monica McLendon**

**Coach, Public Contact Unit  
Nashville VA Regional Office**

Monica McLendon is the Coach for Public Contact at the Nashville VA Regional Office. She's responsible for personal interviews, Congressional Correspondence, Integrated Disability Evaluation System (IDES) and Intake Site, Privacy and FOIA requests, and VA Outreach programs. She has also worked in other areas such as Pre-Determination, Post-Determination, Appeals, Quality Review, and Training.

Prior to coming to the VA, she was a Logistics and Chemical Officer in the United States Army. After leaving the military, she pursued her Masters in Business Administration, while WalMart Logistics employed her. She is active in a variety of civic and cultural organizations including Feed the Homeless and a member of the Frist Center for the Visual Arts. Outside of professional interests, she enjoys cooking and attends several sporting events with her family.

# Instructor

## Gabrielle Hulan

Communication Specialist,  
VA Tennessee Valley Healthcare System



Gabrielle Hulan is a Communications Specialist with the Veterans Administration Tennessee Valley Healthcare System promoting and educating Veterans and healthcare teams on the VA's Online Health Record, My HealtheVet. She came to VA with three years prior experience as a Shipping Solutions Specialist with the United States Postal Service. At USPS she worked with top companies developing customized pricing agreements, negotiating contracts, and coordinating logistic integration and support. Before joining the USPS she was a Marketing Manager for MedQuest and developed and implemented strategic plans to a regional territory of physicians.

Gabrielle graduated from Middle Tennessee University with a degree in Microbiology and Chemistry.

## *Serving Those Who Served*



- ⇒ TDVA Veteran Benefit Representatives are available to help Veterans file claims for eligible benefits at no charge to the Veteran.
- ⇒ TDVA will advocate for the Veteran during the claims process.
- ⇒ TDVA wants to educate Veterans about their eligibility for state and federal benefits.
- ⇒ Find out more at [tn.gov/veterans](http://tn.gov/veterans) or follow us on [facebook/myTDVA](#) or twitter [@TNDVA](#).

*Serving Veterans and their families with dignity and compassion*



*Entertainment*

## Lee Greenwood

Lee Greenwood could easily talk about the accomplishments in his life, but this high energy entertainer prefers to continue writing and recording with the same passion and integrity that has always fueled his stellar career.

The song, "God Bless the USA" has been voted the most recognizable patriotic song in America. The singer knows first-hand what it's like to have loved ones fighting for the freedom of all Americans as his father served in the Navy and the Merchant Marine in World War II.

"God Bless the USA" went far beyond what Greenwood expected when he wrote it in the back of his tour bus in 1983. The song has been in the top five on the country singles charts three times (1991, 2001 and 2003), giving it the distinction of being the only song in any genre of music to achieve that feat. It was also #1 on the pop charts after 9/11/01. Greenwood says; "USA is the song I always felt the need to write." "I wanted to have something that would unite Americans from coast to coast. I wanted to instill pride back in the United States. The song represents my family, my community and those men and women who have paid the price for the freedoms we all love and enjoy."

In 2011, Greenwood performed for many charitable events and gave his time and name to numerous organizations and fundraisers. He is the National spokesperson for "Products for Good," "Operation Never Forgotten," and on the advisory board of the "Challenger Commission." The singer is also a member of the National Endowment for the Arts Council, a Presidential appointment.

Music has always been a part of Greenwood's life, even while growing up on a farm near Sacramento, California. He started playing the piano when he was seven and the saxophone at 12. In junior high, he started his first group, called the Moonbeams. By the time, he finished High School he played most all the instruments in the orchestra and was the Drum Major for the marching band. Greenwood graduated from high school in June 1960. He passed on a track and music scholarship to the College of the Pacific along with a professional baseball career. He also elected to skip his high school graduation ceremony because he had a job at the Golden Hotel and Casino in Reno, Nevada with his own band, the "Apollos." That turned out to be a great choice.

The California native was discovered in 1979 by Larry McFaden, who saw him performing in a show at the Nugget Casino in Sparks, Nevada. Larry was the bass player and bandleader for Mel Tillis. He brought the singer to Nashville and got him signed to MCA Records. He began working with producer Jerry Crutchfield, with whom he recorded his debut album "It Turns Me Inside Out." The title track became his first hit, followed by "She's Lyin'," "Ain't No Trick" and "Going, Going, Gone." It would be the first of many albums on three different labels in Nashville. Lee and his wife, Kimberly, a former Miss Tennessee, fell in love on his 1989 USO/DOD tour. They were married in Nashville in 1992 and have two sons, Dalton and Parker, 16 and 13.





## WOMEN VETERANS OF AMERICA

**Advocate for Veterans and active duty service women**

**Active in Local and National Veterans issues**

Our Mission: to unite all women Veterans past and present from all service branches, to ensure the best possible care by the Department of Veterans Affairs.



WVA Chapter 20

P.O. Box 121884

Nashville, TN 37212

[www.wvachapter20.org](http://www.wvachapter20.org)



**STATE REPRESENTATIVE**

**JOE PITTS**

**67<sup>TH</sup> HOUSE DISTRICT**

**CLARKSVILLE-MONTGOMERY COUNTY**

Welcome to the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Tennessee Women Veterans Summit. I believe the information you will receive at this event will benefit you, your family, and other women veterans across the state. Thank you for your service to our state and nation.

1-800-449-8366, ext. 12043

[Rep.joe.pitts@capitol.tn.gov](mailto:Rep.joe.pitts@capitol.tn.gov)



# Tennessee County Veteran Service Officer Association



[WWW.TNVSOCOM.COM](http://WWW.TNVSOCOM.COM)



VANDERBILT  
UNIVERSITY

*To the Women Veterans of Tennessee:  
Thank you for attending our first Summit!  
I honor and salute you  
Thank you for your service to our country*

**Many-Bears Grinder**

**Commissioner, Tennessee Department of Veterans Affairs**



1420 Donelson Pike Suite A-5

Nashville, TN 37217

1-877-WAR-VETS

National Call Center : 1-800-827-1000

there are local Vet Centers in Nashville, Chattanooga, Johnson City Knoxville, and Memphis  
with outreach to surrounding communities

We would like to thank the following  
**Sponsors**  
for their support of the first annual summit:

## Gold Level

GFWC Brentwood Woman's Club  
Tennessee House of Representatives Speaker Beth Harwell  
Military Officer Association of America

## Silver Level



CSM Betty List-Rice (Ret)  
Mark and Vicky Breece  
State Representative Julia Hurley  
BMW of Nashville



Working **together** on what matters.

THE TDVA WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE  
WHO ASSISTED IN MAKING THIS SUMMIT A SUCCESS:

## SUMMIT COMMITTEE

**Many-Bears Grinder**, Commissioner, TDVA

**Mary Ross**, National Commander, WVA

**Becky Rigney**, Commander, WVA Chapter 20

**Tami Meske**, Operation Stand Down Nashville, Inc.

**COL Patricia Jones**, TN National Guard

**Melissa Messina**, TN Yellow Ribbon Support Specialist

**Carolyn Pope**, TVHS/VISN 9 Lead Women Veterans Program Manger

**Kaye Borgognoni**, Women's Veterans Program, Memphis, TN

**Wynetta Noland**, Women's Clinic, Memphis, TN

**Stacey Hopwood**, Assistant Director, Montgomery County Veterans Service Organization

**Kathleen Hoffman**, Manager Nashville Vet Center

**Kim Holden**, TVHS Women Veterans Program Manger, Murfreesboro, TN

**Mike Goodrich**, CIV US NG TN ARNG

## AWARD BOARD

**Senator Douglas Henry**

State Senator District 21

Davidson County Veteran svc

**Mary Graham**

President, United Way of Tennessee

**Phyllis Clinger**

President, Business and Professional Women of TN

**Maj Gen (Ret) Rita Works**

Retired from the TN Air National Guard

**State Representative John Mark Windle**

(Major TN Army National Guard)

District 41, Overton County

## VENDORS

Operation Stand Down Nashville, Inc.

Vet Center

J9 Military and Family Readiness Operations

Tennessee Rehab Center for TBI

WVA Chapter 20

APSU Veterans Upward Bound

TVHC OIF/OEF/OND Clinic

ASMBA President

Aid and Assistance at Home

TVHC Women's Clinic

She Served Proudly

## RESOURCES

Tennessee Department of Veterans Affairs:

**[www.tn.gov/veteran](http://www.tn.gov/veteran)**

Women Veterans of America Chapter 20:

**[www.wvachapter20.org](http://www.wvachapter20.org)**

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

**[www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov)**

NAMI:

**[www.namitn.org/veterans](http://www.namitn.org/veterans)**

East TN Veterans Resources:

**[www.etmac.org/html/local\\_resources](http://www.etmac.org/html/local_resources)**

Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network:

**[tspn.org/veteran-resources](http://tspn.org/veteran-resources)**

Operation Stand Down Nashville, Inc.:

**[www.osdnashville.org](http://www.osdnashville.org)**

Tennessee County Veteran Service Organization:

**[www.tnvso.com/index.html](http://www.tnvso.com/index.html)**

The Center for Women Veterans:

**[www.va.gov.womenvet](http://www.va.gov.womenvet)**

Directory for National Veterans Service Organizations:

**[www.va.gov/vso](http://www.va.gov/vso)**

VA Education Benefits:

**[www.gibill.va.gov](http://www.gibill.va.gov)**

Tennessee Valley Health Care Women's Clinic:

**[www.tennesseevalley.va.gov/visitors/charlottewomen.asp](http://www.tennesseevalley.va.gov/visitors/charlottewomen.asp)**

## RESOURCES

eBenefits: [www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits-portal/ebenefits.portal](http://www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits-portal/ebenefits.portal)

MyHealtheVet: [www.myhealth.va.gov/index.html](http://www.myhealth.va.gov/index.html)

Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Tennessee: [tnvfw.org](http://tnvfw.org)

American Legion Department of Tennessee: [www.tennesseelegion.org](http://www.tennesseelegion.org)

Disabled American Veterans: [www.dav.org](http://www.dav.org)

The Department of Tennessee Marine Corps League: [www.mcldepttn.org](http://www.mcldepttn.org)

AMVETS: [www.amvets.org](http://www.amvets.org)

WAVES National: [www.womenofthewaves.com/wavesnational/index.html](http://www.womenofthewaves.com/wavesnational/index.html)

American - Ex Prisoners of War: [www.axpow.org](http://www.axpow.org)

### VETERAN AFFAIRS WOMEN CLINICS IN TN:

#### **Nashville**

1919 Charlotte Avenue,  
Suite 300 Nashville, TN 37203  
1-877-873-1692

#### **Louisville**

VA HealthCare Center, Shively  
3934 North Dixie Highway – Suite 210  
Louisville, KY 40216

#### **Memphis**

1030 Jefferson Avenue  
Memphis, TN 38104  
901-523-8990

#### **Huntington**

1540 Spring Valley Drive  
Huntington, WV 25704  
304-429-6755 ext. 4057  
1-800-827-8244 ext. 4057

#### **Mountain Home**

Judi East FNP Program Manager Women Veterans Program  
James H. Quillen Veterans Affairs Medical Center  
Mountain Home, TN 37684  
423-979-3030



## DIRECTORY

Tennessee  
Department of  
Veterans Affairs

312 Rosa L.  
Parks Avenue,  
13th Floor  
Nashville, TN  
37243

**615-741-2931**

[www.tn.gov/  
veteran](http://www.tn.gov/veteran)

**Commissioner,**  
Many-Bears  
Grinder  
**615-741-1959**

**Deputy**  
**Commissioner,**  
**Middle TN,**  
Wendell Cheek  
**615-741-6603**

**Assistant**  
**Commissioner,**  
**West TN,**  
Mark Breece  
**615-509-7083**

**Assistant**  
**Commissioner,**  
**East TN,**  
Donald Smith  
**615-828-5014**

**Veterans Service Offices**  
(Counties in bold are TDVA Field Office locations)

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**West Tennessee**

**DICKSON**, Cheatham, Hickman, Houston, Humphreys, Lawrence, Lewis,  
Perry, Stewart, Wayne **615-441-6224**

**DYER**, Crockett, Gibson, Haywood, Henry, Lake, Lauderdale, Obion, Tipton,  
Weakley **731-286-8344**

**MADISON**, Benton, Carroll, Chester, Decatur, Fayette, Hardeman, Hardin,  
Henderson, McNairy **731-423-5614**

**SHELBY** **901-577-7673**

**MONTGOMERY**, Robertson **931-431-3784**

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**Middle Tennessee**

**RUTHERFORD**, Bedford, Cannon, Coffee, Franklin, Giles, Lincoln, Marshall,  
Maury, Moore, Sumner **615-225-6930**

**DAVIDSON**, Williamson, Wilson **615-873-7950**

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**East Tennessee**

**HAMILTON**, Bledsoe, Bradley, Grundy, McMinn, Marion, Meigs, Polk, Rhea,  
Sequatchie **423-634-7125**

**PUTNAM**, Clay, Cumberland, DeKalb, Fentress, Jackson, Macon, Overton,  
Pickett, Smith, Trousdale, VanBuren, Warren, White **931-526-6929**

**KNOX**, Anderson, Blount, Campbell, Loudon, Monroe, Morgan, Roane,  
Scott, Sevier, Union **865-594-6158**

**HAMBLEN**, Claiborne, Cocke, Grainger, Hancock, Hawkins, Jefferson  
**423-587-7032**

**WASHINGTON**, Carter, Greene, Johnson, Sullivan, Unicoi  
**423-926-1171 ext. 7203**

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**CLAIMS OFFICE.....615-695-6385**

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**VETERANS HOMES**

East Tennessee.....**865-862-8100**

Middle Tennessee.....**615-895-8850**

West Tennessee.....**731-784-8405**

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**VETERANS CEMETERIES**

Knoxville – Gov. John Sevier  
and Lyons View.....**865-577-3228**

Memphis.....**901-543-7005**

Nashville.....**615-532-2238**



# fallen Heroes



**Billie Jean Grinder**  
Army Chief Warrant Officer 2  
August 9, 1984 - February 21, 2010

CW2 Billie Jean Grinder, 25, died February 21, 2010 in Iraq as a result of a helicopter crash while assigned to C Trp, 1-230th ACS. Grinder was the first female Tennessee National Guard Soldier to die in Iraq since Operation Iraqi Freedom began. She was a 2002 graduate of Smyrna High School and joined the Tennessee Army National Guard in July 2002. CW2 Grinder became a pilot in 2007 after completing Warrant Officer School at Ft. Rucker, AL and quickly excelled in her skills as an Army aviator. CW2 Grinder is survived by her husband Sam Grinder, two step daughters Megan and Makayla, mother Roxanne Davenport and step father Billy Davenport.



**Michelle R. Ring**  
Army Corporal  
July 2, 1981 - July 5, 2007

Corporal Michelle R Ring, 24, was killed by mortar fire while on guard duty at Camp Liberty in Baghdad, Iraq on July 5, 2007. She served with the 92d Military Police Battalion, Fort Benning, Georgia. CPL Ring was born in Portland, Tennessee and attended school in McMinnville until her family moved to Alaska. The Tennessee native eventually returned to the Volunteer State before she joined the Army in 2005. CPL Ring was a single mother of 7-year old Marc and 5-year old Brandon. She is also survived by parents John and Shirley Stearns of McMinnville and sisters Karen Harbuck and Marilyn Haybeck





*Tennessee*  
SALUTES HER  
WOMEN VETERANS



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